

A RESOLUTION supporting the establishment of a dignified and robust wage for employees performing work in cities across America, as part of a national mobilization on April 15th to promote higher wages for all working families.

Introduced:	By:
Referred:	To:
Referred:	To:
Reported:	
Passed:	Signed:
Filed:	Published:

US5171



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Legislative Summary

Res 31575

Record No.: Res 31575

Type: Resolution (Res)

Status: Attested by City Clerk

Version: 1

In Control: Full Council

File Created: 03/31/2015

Final Action: 04/10/2015

Title: A RESOLUTION supporting the establishment of a dignified and robust wage for employees performing work in cities across America, as part of a national mobilization on April 15th to promote higher wages for all working families.

Date

Notes:

Filed with City Clerk:

Mayor's Signature:

Sponsors: Licata

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

Attachments:

Drafter: Emilia.Sanchez@seattle.gov

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published:

Yes

No

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	City Clerk	04/01/2015	sent for review	Council President's Office			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office						
	Notes:						
1	Council President's Office	04/01/2015	sent for review	Full Council			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Full Council						
	Notes:						
1	Full Council	04/06/2015	adopted				Pass
	Action Text: The Motion carried and the Resolution (Res) was adopted by the following vote, and the President signed the Resolution:						
	Notes: Motion was made and duly seconded to adopt Resolution No. 31575.						

In Favor: 9 Councilmember Bagshaw, Council President Burgess, Councilmember Clark, Councilmember Godden, Councilmember Harrell, Councilmember Licata, Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Rasmussen, Councilmember Sawant

Opposed: 0

1 City Clerk 04/10/2015 attested by City Clerk

Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was attested by City Clerk.

Notes:

Opposed: 0

CITY OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION 31575

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4 A RESOLUTION supporting the establishment of a dignified and robust wage for employees
5 performing work in cities across America, as part of a national mobilization on April 15th
6 to promote higher wages for all working families.

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9 WHEREAS, United States President Barack Obama has called addressing income
10 inequality the "the defining issue of our time;" and

11 WHEREAS, the noted economist Thomas Piketty wrote in his landmark book *Capital in*
12 *the 21st Century* the need to act on income inequality is profound: "real wages for most US
13 workers have increased little if at all since the early 1970s, but wages for the top one percent of
14 earners have risen 165 percent, and wages for the top 0.1 percent have risen 362 percent;" and

15 WHEREAS, millions of low wage workers struggle to meet their families' most basic
16 needs, urban living is increasingly unaffordable for so many citizens, and the hollowing-out of
17 the middle class strikes at the core of who we are as a community – dedicated to democratic
18 principles and economic advancement and opportunity; and

19 WHEREAS, women and people of color are over-represented in low wage jobs, and a
20 higher minimum wage is a powerful tool to reduce race and gender income disparities;

21 WHEREAS, many workers cannot fully participate in their community's civic life or
22 pursue the myriad educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities that constitute a
23 flourishing life because they struggle to meet their households' most basic needs; and

24 WHEREAS, minimum wage laws promote the general welfare, health, and prosperity of
25 citizens by ensuring that workers can better support and care for their families and fully
26 participate in civic, cultural, and economic life; and

1 WHEREAS, corporations have a responsibility to treat their employees with respect and
2 workers have a moral right to live in dignity, but approximately 52 percent of the families of
3 front-line fast food workers are enrolled in public assistance programs, which costs taxpayers
4 approximately \$7 billion a year; and

5 WHEREAS, the fast food industry had revenues of approximately \$232 billion in 2014
6 and the top 7 fast food companies earned annual profits in 2012 of approximately \$7 billion and
7 distributed \$7.7 billion in dividends and stock buybacks; and

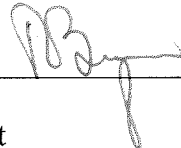
8 WHEREAS, the growth of low-wage jobs extends beyond fast food and retail into sectors
9 like healthcare and child care, where home care workers and child care teachers that care for our
10 most vulnerable can't make ends meet; and academia, where adjunct professors too often earn
11 poverty wages with no benefits despite having advanced degrees; NOW, THEREFORE;

12 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

13 The Seattle City Council supports workers across the country who are calling for a wage of
14 \$15 per hour and the right to organize. We urge employers, from fast food chains to
15 universities, to respond to the challenge of rising income inequality by raising wages
16 significantly so as to ensure broadly shared prosperity that permits employees to obtain basic
17 necessities like affordable housing, health care, and education and to give their families a
18 dignified life.


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Adopted by the City Council the 6th day of April, 2015, and
signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 6th day
of April, 2015.



President _____ of the City Council

Filed by me this 6th day of April, 2015.



Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)